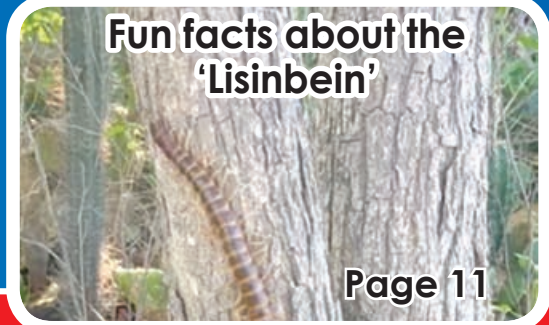




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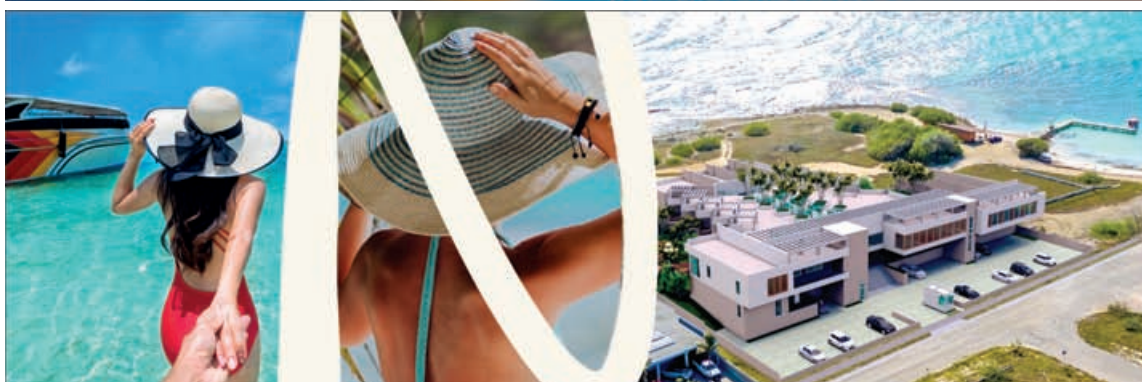
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FBI cuts ties with Southern Poverty Law Center, Anti-Defamation League after conservative complaints

By ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director Kash Patel says the bureau is cutting ties with two organizations that for decades have tracked domestic extremism and racial and religious bias, a move that follows complaints about the groups from some conservatives and prominent allies of President Donald Trump. Patel said on Friday that the FBI would sever its relationship with the Southern Poverty Law Center, asserting that the organization had been turned into a "partisan smear machine" and criticizing it for its use of a "hate map" that documents alleged anti-government and hate groups inside the United States. A statement earlier in the week from Patel said the FBI would end ties with the Anti-Defamation League, a prominent Jewish advocacy organization that fights anti-Semitism.

The announcements amount to a dramatic rethinking of longstanding FBI partnerships with prominent civil rights groups at a time when Patel is moving rapidly to reshape the nation's



FBI director Kash Patel and Attorney General Pam Bondi listen as President Donald Trump speaks with reporters in the Oval Office at the White House, Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

premier federal law enforcement agency. The organizations over the years have provided research on hate crime and domestic extremism, law enforcement training and other services, but have also been criticized by some conservatives for what they say is an unfair maligning of their viewpoints. That criticism escalated after the assassination of

conservative activist Charlie Kirk amid renewed attention to the SPLC's characterization of the group, Turning Point USA, that Kirk founded. For instance, the SPLC included a section on Turning Point in a report titled "The Year in Hate and Extremism 2024" that described the group as a "case study in the hard right." Prominent figures including Elon Musk lambast-

ed the SPLC just this week about its descriptions of Kirk and the organization. A spokesperson for the SPLC, a legal and advocacy group founded in 1971 as a watchdog for minorities and the underprivileged, did not directly address Patel's comments in a statement Friday but said the organization has for decades shared data with the public and remains

committed to exposing hate and extremism as we work to equip communities with knowledge and defend the rights and safety of marginalized people." The Anti-Defamation League has also faced criticism on the right for maintaining a "Glossary of Extremism." The organization announced this week that it was discontinuing that glossary because a number of entries were outdated and some were being "intentionally misrepresented and misused."

Founded in 1913 to confront anti-Semitism, the ADL has long worked closely with the FBI, not only through research and training but also through awards ceremonies that recognize law enforcement officials involved in investigations into racially or religiously motivated extremism.

Former FBI Director James Comey paid tribute to that relationship in May 2017 when he said at an ADL event: "For more than 100 years, you have advocated and fought for fairness and equality, for inclusion and acceptance. You never were indifferent or complacent."

□

Trump administration offers migrant children \$2,500 to voluntarily return to home countries

By VALERIE GONZALEZ

Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — The Trump administration said Friday that it would pay migrant children \$2,500 to

voluntarily return to their home countries, dangling a new incentive in efforts to persuade people to self-deport.

U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement didn't say how much migrants would get or when the offer would take effect, but The Associated Press obtained an email to migrant shelters saying children 14 years of age and older would get \$2,500 each. Children were given 24 hours to respond. The notice to shelters from the U.S. Health and Human Services Department's Administration for Families and Children did not indicate any consequences for children who decline the offer. It asked shelter directors to acknowledge the offer within four hours.

ICE said in a statement that the offer would initially be for 17-year-olds.

"Any payment to support a

return home would be provided after an immigration judge grants the request and the individual arrives in their country of origin," ICE said. "Access to financial support when returning home would assist should they choose that option."

ICE, the Department of Homeland Security and the Health and Human Services Department did not immediately respond to questions about the amount of the payment and age eligibility. ICE dismissed widespread reports among immigration lawyers and advocates that it was launching a much broader crackdown Friday to deport migrant children who entered the coun-

try without their parents, called "Freaky Friday." The administration has also offered \$1,000 to adults who voluntarily leave the country. Advocates said \$2,500 may prevent children from making informed decisions. "For a child, \$2,500 might be the most money they've ever seen in their life, and that may make it very, very difficult for them to accurately weigh the long-term risks of taking voluntary departure versus trying to stay in the United States and going through the immigration court process to get relief that they may be legally entitled to," said Melissa Adamson, senior attorney at the National Center for Youth Law. □



An Immigration and Customs Enforcement vehicle is parked outside the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) building Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025, in Broadview, Ill.

Associated Press

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Hegseth announces latest strike on boat near Venezuela he says was trafficking drugs

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN and LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Friday that he ordered another strike on a small boat he accused of carrying drugs in the waters off Venezuela, expanding what the Trump administration has declared is an "armed conflict" with cartels. In a post on social media, Hegseth asserted that the "vessel was trafficking narcotics" and those aboard were "narco-terrorists." He said the strike killed four men but offered no details on who they were or what group they belonged to, following the U.S. designation of several Latin American cartels as foreign terrorist organizations. President Donald Trump said in his own social media post that the boat was "loaded with enough drugs to kill 25 TO 50 THOUSAND PEOPLE" and implied it was "entering American Territory" while off the coast of Venezuela.

It is the fourth deadly strike in the Caribbean and the latest since revelations that Trump told lawmakers he was treating drug traffickers as unlawful combatants and military force was required to combat them. That assertion of presidential war powers sets the stage for expanded action and raises questions about how far the administration will go without sign-off from Congress.

"Blowing them up without knowing who's on the boat is a terrible policy, and it should end," said Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, a consistent and harsh critic of the U.S. strikes.

The Trump administration laid out its justification for the strikes in a memo obtained by The Associated Press this week.

"The President determined that the United States is in a non-international armed conflict with these designated terrorist organizations," according to the memo sent to Congress.

Trump directed the Pentagon to "conduct operations against them pursuant to the law of armed conflict," the document says.

Sen. Jim Risch, Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the president had the authority to go after the cartels without further authorization from Congress under "his general powers under the Constitution as the commander in chief."

"What could be a bigger defense of this country than keeping out this poison that's killing thousands of Americans every year?" Risch said Friday.

Paul said only Congress has the authority to declare war and characterized the memo as "a way to pretend like" the administration is notifying lawmakers with a justification for the strikes.

"If they want to declare war, come to Congress and say they want to declare war," he told AP. "But you can't just say it yourself and say, Oh, well, we



Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth speaks to senior military leaders at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025 in Quantico, Va.

Associated Press

sent them a note and now we're at war with unnamed people who we won't even identify before we kill."

Colombian President Gustavo Petro, a leftist leader who has clashed with the Trump administration, accused the U.S. of committing "murder" and urged the victims' families to "join forces."

"There are no narco-terrorists on the boats," he posted on X after the strike was announced. "Drug traffickers live in the U.S., Europe and Dubai. On that boat are poor Caribbean youth."

Video of Friday's strike posted online showed a small boat moving in open water when it suddenly explodes, with water splashing all around it. As the smoke from the explosion clears, the boat is visible, consumed with flames, floating motionless on the water.

With it, at least three of the strikes have now been carried out on vessels that U.S. officials said had originated from Venezuela. The strikes followed a buildup of U.S. maritime forces in the Caribbean unlike any seen in recent times. □

Judge dismisses lawsuit claiming U.N. agency enabled Hamas' deadly attack on Israel



Sacks of flour are unloaded from a truck as residents receive their monthly food supplies from the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) at a warehouse at the Jebaliya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, on Thursday, April 13, 2006.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A lawsuit that claimed the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees had provided more than \$1 billion that enabled Hamas' deadly attack on Israel was dismissed this week by a federal judge in New York.

U.S. District Judge Analisa Torres said the United Nations Relief and Works Agency was protected because it was part of the United Nations, which enjoys immunity from such lawsuits.

The suit sought to hold the agency, known as UNRWA,

accountable for the Oct. 7, 2023, deadly attack on Israel by Hamas. The litigation, filed by families of some of the victims of the massacre, sought unspecified damages and named UNRWA and seven of its current and former senior officials as defendants.

The lawsuit alleges that UNRWA had aided Hamas by, among other things, permitting weapons storage and deployment centers in its schools and medical clinics and by employing Hamas members. Lawyers for UNRWA have

called the lawsuit "absurd" and have said in court filings that the agency was immune from liability as a "subsidiary organ" of the U.N.

President Joe Biden's administration last year had argued that the suit should be dismissed because UNRWA was protected by immunity and could not be sued. But in April, President Donald Trump's administration reversed that position and argued that neither the agency nor its officials were entitled to such protection. □

Newsom signs bill giving 800,000 Uber and Lyft drivers in California the right to unionize

By TRÂN NGUYỄN

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— More than 800,000 drivers for ride-hailing companies in California will soon be able to join a union and bargain collectively for better wages and benefits under a measure signed Friday by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Supporters said the new law will open a path for the largest expansion of private sector collective bargaining rights in the state's history. The legislation is a significant compromise in the yearslong battle between labor unions and tech companies.

California is the second state where Uber and Lyft drivers can unionize as independent contractors. Massachusetts voters passed a ballot referendum in November allowing unionization, while drivers in Illinois and Minnesota are pushing for similar rights. Newsom announced the signing at an unrelated news conference at University of California, Berkeley. The new law will give drivers "dignity and a say about their future," he said. The new law is part of an agreement made in September between Newsom, state lawmakers and the Service Employees International Union, along with rideshare companies Uber



A Lyft driver takes a customer to the airport, Jan. 29, 2024, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

and Lyft. In exchange, Newsom is expected to sign a measure supported by Uber and Lyft to significantly cut the companies' insurance requirements for accidents caused by underinsured drivers.

Lyft CEO David Risher said in September that the new insurance rates are expected to save the company \$200 million and could help reduce fares.

Uber and Lyft fares in California are consistently higher than in other parts of the U.S. because of insurance requirements, the companies say. Uber has said that nearly one-third of every

ride fare in the state goes toward paying for state-mandated insurance. Labor unions and tech companies have fought for years over drivers' rights. In July of last year, the California Supreme Court ruled that app-based ride-hailing and delivery services like Uber and Lyft can continue treating their drivers as independent contractors not entitled to benefits like overtime pay, paid sick leave and unemployment insurance. A 2019 law mandated that Uber and Lyft provide drivers with benefits, but voters reversed it at the ballot in 2020.

The collective bargaining measure now allows rideshare workers in California to join a union while still being classified as independent contractors and requires gig companies to bargain in good faith. The new law doesn't apply to drivers for delivery apps like DoorDash.

The insurance measure will reduce the coverage requirement for accidents caused by uninsured or underinsured drivers from \$1 million to \$60,000 per individual and \$300,000 per accident.

The two measures "together represent a compromise

that lowers costs for riders while creating stronger voices for drivers —demonstrating how industry, labor, and lawmakers can work together to deliver real solutions," Ramona Prieto, head of public policy for California at Uber, said in a statement.

Rideshare Drivers United, a Los Angeles-based advocacy group of 20,000 drivers, said the collective bargaining law isn't strong enough to give workers a fair contract. The group wanted to require the companies to report its data on pay to the state.

New York City drivers' pay increased after the city started requiring the companies to report how much an average driver earns, the group said.

"Drivers really need the backing of the state to ensure that not only is a wage proposal actually going to help drivers, but that there is progress in drivers' pay over the years," said Nicole Moore, president of Rideshare Drivers United.

Other drivers said the legislation will provide more job safety and benefits.

Many who support unionization said they have faced a slew of issues, including being "deactivated" from their apps without an explanation or fair appeals process when a passenger complains. □



President Donald Trump, Gov. Ron DeSantis, R-Fla., and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, and others, tour "Alligator Alcatraz," a new migrant detention facility at Dade-Collier Training and Transition facility, Tuesday, July 1, 2025, in Ochopee, Fla.

Associated Press

By MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

Federal officials on Friday confirmed Florida has been approved for a \$608 million

reimbursement for the costs of building and running an immigration detention center in the Florida Everglades, exposing "Alligator Alcatraz"

Feds approve Florida for a \$608 million 'Alligator Alcatraz' reimbursement

to the potential risk of being ordered to close for a second time. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said in an email that the state of Florida was awarded its full reimbursement this week. While the funds have been approved, they haven't yet been released since the Federal Emergency Management Agency's process requires that it review expenses for which reimbursement requests are made, Stephanie Hartman, director of communications for the Florida Division of Emergency Management, said in an email to The

Associated Press.

The reimbursement process potentially exposes the state of Florida to being forced to unwind operations at the remote facility for a second time because of a federal judge's injunction in August. The Miami judge agreed with environmental groups who had sued that the site wasn't given a proper environmental review before it was converted into an immigration detention center and gave Florida two months to wind down operations.

The judge's injunction, however, was put on hold for the

time being by an appellate court panel in Atlanta that said the state-run facility didn't need to undergo a federally required environmental impact study because Florida had yet to receive federal money for the project.

"If the federal defendants ultimately decide to approve that request and reimburse Florida for its expenditures related to the facility, they may need to first conduct an EIS (environmental impact statement)," the three-judge appellate court panel wrote last month. □

Dutch high court orders government to reevaluate license to export F-35 fighter jet parts to Israel

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) —

The highest court in the Netherlands on Friday ordered the Dutch government to reevaluate its currently suspended license for exporting parts for F-35 fighter jets to Israel, in response to concerns they could be used in breaches of international law.

The Supreme Court said an export suspension remains in place while the government reassesses the license. The court's vice-president, Martijn Polak, said the government now has six weeks to reevaluate the license.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court said an appeals court in The Hague overstepped its authority when it banned the transfer of F-35 parts to Israel in February 2024, citing concerns they could be used in breaches of international law. The ruling led the government to suspend the exports.

Foreign Minister David van Weel welcomed the ruling and said he would make a decision within six weeks, but suggested that it was unlikely "given the current situation" in Gaza that exports would resume.



Smoke rises to the sky following an Israeli military strike in Gaza City, as seen from the central Gaza Strip, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025.

Associated Press

Michiel Servaes, director of Oxfam Novib, one of the rights groups that filed the civil case, said they were "disappointed that we haven't been proven right on all counts, but far more importantly, the minister's mandatory reassessment can only have one outcome: The export ban will remain in place."

The ruling comes as Israel continues its devastating offensive against Hamas in

Gaza and at a time of political flux in the Netherlands, with national elections scheduled for Oct. 29 and the current government in caretaker mode.

The case was originally brought in late 2023 by three Dutch rights groups who argued that transferring the F-35 parts makes the Netherlands complicit in possible war crimes being committed by Israel in its war with Hamas. Israel

denies committing war crimes in its campaign in Gaza. The district court in The Hague initially rejected the ban, but in February 2024 an appeals panel ordered the Dutch government to halt shipments of F-35 fighter jet parts to Israel, citing a clear risk of violations of international law. The government appealed to the Supreme Court, saying that foreign policy was a matter for the govern-

ment, not courts.

"The Court of Appeal was not entitled to make its own assessment of whether there is clear risk of serious violations of international humanitarian law," the Supreme Court said in a written summary of its ruling. It added that "the Minister must reassess the license based on that criterion."

The Netherlands is home to one of three regional warehouses for U.S.-owned F-35 parts. Dutch government lawyers argue that a ban on transfers from the Netherlands would effectively be meaningless as the United States would deliver the parts anyway.

Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed more than 66,200 Palestinians and wounded nearly 170,000 others, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and militants in its toll, but has said women and children make up around half the dead.

The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government. U.N. agencies and many independent experts view its figures as the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties. □

Egypt blames Ethiopia's newly inaugurated dam for rising Nile waters and flooding

By FATMA KHALED

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt on Friday blamed Ethiopia for the rising Nile River waters and flooding this week in two of its northernmost provinces, claiming the unusually high water levels are due to the east African country's mismanagement of its new controversial dam on the river.

The floods in Beheira and Menoufia provinces in the Nile Delta in Egypt have submerged farmland and flooded village homes, many built illegally on silt deposits and sediments along the canals crisscrossing the delta.

Videos posted online Friday show residents in Me-

noufia wading through waist-deep water and partially submerged homes. In Ashmoun, farmers and residents were urged to urgently leave their lands and homes.

The extent of the damage by the floods in Egypt was not immediately known and officials in Menoufia could not be reached for comment and information about the damage.

Earlier this week, flooding along the Nile in war-stricken Sudan, which borders both Egypt and Ethiopia, prompted scores of villagers there to evacuate their homes. The U.N. migration agency, the International Organization for Migration, said on Thursday that

about 100 households in Khartoum were also flooded.

Egypt now says that it was forced to discharge waters from its High Aswan Dam on the Nile in the country's south, because it could not hold back rising water levels coming in from Ethiopia, more than 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles) away. Ethiopia earlier this month inaugurated the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, Africa's largest dam, to boost its economy. The nearly \$5 billion dam, located on the Blue Nile one of the two main tributaries of the Nile near Ethiopia's border with Sudan, is expected to double Ethiopia's electricity generation

capacity, according to officials. But Egypt and Sudan say the dam in Ethiopia was in violation of an

agreement dating back to the colonial times on how they should share Nile water resources. □



People carry their belongings on a boat after their homes were destroyed by floods, in Wad Ramli village, about 60 kilometers (37 miles) north of Khartoum, Sudan, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025.

Associated Press

Brazil's lower house approves an increase in tax exemptions for low-income people

By **ELÉONORE HUGHES and GABRIELA SÁ PESSOA**

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

Brazil's lower house has approved exempting up to 5,000 reais (\$940) a month from income taxes, which would more than double the current exemption and meet a key priority of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's 2022 election campaign.

The bill passed the House unanimously late Wednesday and will now head to the Senate, where Lula said he expects final approval for the measure, which has drawn broad public support.

Lula described the vote on X as: "A victory in favor of tax justice and the fight against inequality in Brazil, benefiting 15 million Brazilian workers."

In the bill sent to Congress in March, Lula's leftist government proposed to offset the loss of state revenue by introducing a minimum effective tax rate for high-income individuals a tax that must be paid regardless of the amount of deductions



Residents walk along a sidewalk in Aracuai, Brazil, Oct. 11, 2022.

Associated Press

and credits the taxpayer might have.

The new minimum effective tax would apply to people who earn over 600,000 reais (approximately \$113,000) a year, ramping up from zero to 10% for those who earn over 1,200,000 reais (some \$226,000) annually.

That legislation would target some 141,000 wealthy

individuals in the country, who on average currently pay an effective tax rate of 2.5%, according to Brazil's Finance Ministry.

If the measure passes the Senate, Lula would then sign the reform into law and it would come into effect on Jan. 1, 2026.

The unanimous support for the bill in the lower

house despite Lula's coalition lacking a majority in the chamber reflects the broad public support for the tax exemption and the lack of a coherent opposition to Lula's administration.

Lula is expected to run for reelection next year.

He had been facing plummeting popularity, al-

though he has recovered slightly in recent months as an unintended effect of U.S. President Donald Trump's politically-motivated 50% tariff on a range of Brazilian imports. The leftist president's defense of Brazilian sovereignty has struck a chord in public opinion.

Increasing the income tax exemption could provide a major political victory for Lula and could help peel away on-the-fence voters from the camp of former right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro, Lula's principal political opponent, according to Luciana Santana, a political scientist at the Federal University of Alagoas.

"It will have a big impact on a considerable portion of the population and it's something the government needs: a policy with broad societal impact," Santana said. Some 90% of the country's population earned less than 4040 reais in 2024, when considering household income per capita, according to Brazil's national statistics agency IBGE. □

Russia targets Ukraine's natural gas facilities in biggest attack of the war

By **HANNA ARHIROVA**

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia launched its biggest attack of the war overnight against natural gas facilities run by Ukraine's state-owned Naftogaz Group,

officials said Friday.

Russia fired a total of 381 drones and 35 missiles at Ukraine, according to Ukraine's air force. In what officials said was an attempt to wreck the Ukrainian power grid ahead of winter and

wear down public appetite for the 3-year-old conflict.

"This is deliberate terror against civilian facilities that provide gas extraction and processing for the normal life of people," Serhii Koretskyi, chief executive of Ukraine's state-owned gas company Naftogaz, said in a statement. "It has no military purpose. This is yet another act of Russian malice aimed solely at disrupting the heating season and depriving Ukrainians of warmth in winter."

Russia aimed 35 missiles, many of them ballistic, and 60 drones at Naftogaz's gas extraction and processing facilities in the northeastern Kharkiv and central Poltava regions, some of which sustained critical damage, Koretskyi said. Russia's Ministry of Defense said its forces

launched a mass strike using drones and guided weapons against Ukraine's military-industrial complex and the gas and energy infrastructure that supports it. "All designated targets were hit," it said in a statement.

As winter has approached each year since Russia's February 2022 invasion of its neighbor, Russian forces have blasted Ukraine's power grid. Ukraine says it is an attempt to weaponize winter by denying civilians heat, light and running water.

Russia has recently escalated its strikes on the power grid, as well as on Ukraine's rail network, which is essential for military transport.

"Russia is terrorizing civilians and trying to disrupt the heating season,"

Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said in a statement.

In Poltava, the attacks injured an 8-year-old child and two women, according to authorities.

One blast also shattered about half of the windows in the city's historic St. Nicholas Church, which is listed as an architectural monument of local significance. Ukraine has used its domestically produced long-range drones to hit back at Russia, with drones strikes on the Orsk oil refinery, located about 1,400 kilometers (900 miles) from the Ukrainian border, Andriy Kovalenko, head of the Center for Countering Disinformation at the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, said Friday. □



Firefighters tackle the blaze after a Russian air attack that hit at Barabashovo market in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025.

Associated Press

National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the bright blue Cododo or mighty Warawara.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the island's past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: A majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heading back to the ocean after laying her eggs. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology



and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natu-

ral Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, or 4x4 vehicle. As of 2020, ATV's and UTVs are not allowed in the park due to its significant impact they have on nature.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mudhouse. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF), formerly known as Aruba Nation-

al Park Foundation. This foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of ACF. In 2019, preliminary management plan for marine were introduced for Parke Marino to conserve reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests and in 2020 ACF was given additional management areas such as the Saliñas (Druif, Malmok, Cerca, Palm Beach, Bubali etc.) and also additional areas such as Rooi Manonchi, Ser'I Teishi etc. Managed areas can be seen here: <https://acf.aw/>.

Visit the National Park Arikok to see the wonder of Aruba's nature. The visitor center in San Fuego and entrance in Vader Piet (San Nicolas) is open daily from 8:00 AM to 16:00 PM. Contact the ACF via e-mail, info@acf.aw or call +297 585 1234 for more information. 



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The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history



(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually

dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70.

Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that in-



Administration Buildings at Gold-plant



involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant.

Sources: Etnia Nativa & gold-mineranch.com.



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □

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Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Aruba's underwater wonderland

(Oranjestad)—Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

Tres Trapi



Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken word war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible



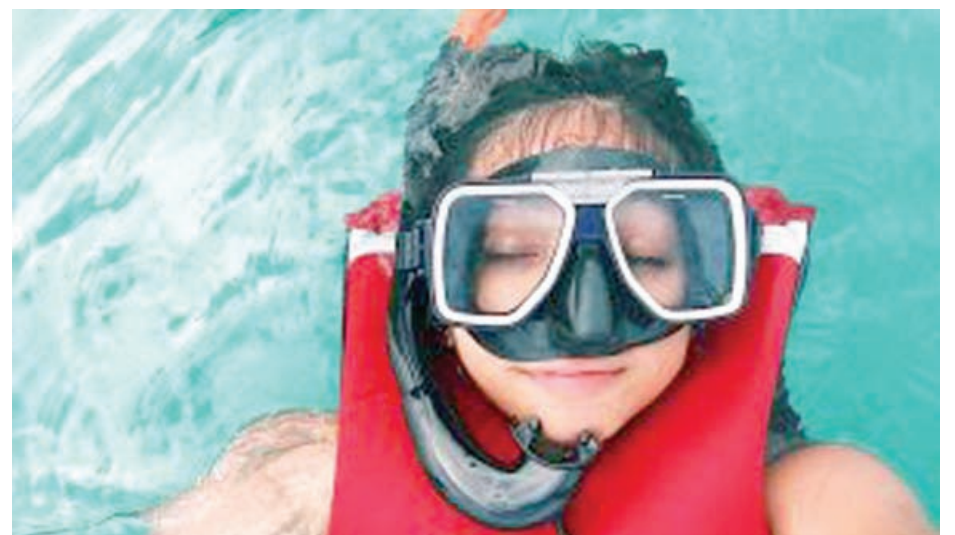
from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Episode CCCXXII-322

Aruba's Journey Through Education and Culture

The narrative of Etnia Nativa highlights the importance of reclaiming Aruba's cultural identity and heritage. Through this platform, it shares an authentic native perspective, educates the public, and inspires readers to adopt an "island caretaker" mindset.

Join us and discover how education and literacy have shaped Aruba's contemporary cultural life. Day-to-day life in early 19th-century Aruba was largely monotonous. Many people preferred to rest in hammocks, seeking refuge from the scorching sun and oppressive heat. Reading was uncommon—partly due to a long-standing misinterpretation of an old proverb passed down through generations, which warned that "reading can drive people mad."

At that time, only two schools had been established on the island. The public school offered Protestant education in Dutch, while the Roman Catholic school provided instruction in Spanish. In the late 1800s, nuns gradually took over teaching responsibilities.

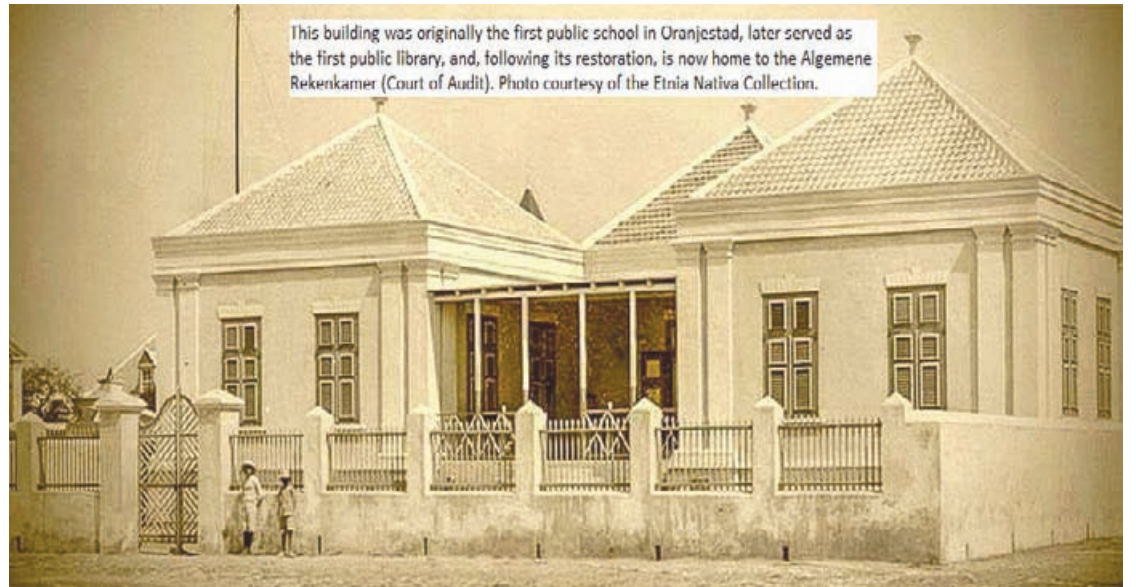
Schools were opened in Oranjestad, Noord, and Santa Cruz. In Oranjestad, Dutch was the only language of instruction in both public and Catholic schools. In contrast, schools in Noord and Santa Cruz began to replace Spanish with Papiamentu—the local language. By the turn of the century, a school in Savaneta was also teaching in Papiamentu. Meanwhile, a small Protestant school was founded in Piedra Plat, located northeast of the Hoiberg hill.

Although Aruba did not experience significant economic or demographic growth during this period, islanders generally lived content and peaceful lives.

With the exception of folk dances, religious ceremonies, and harvest festivals—some of which were documented in Van Meeteren's *Volkskunde* (Ethnology)—very little historical literature captures the island's early cultural evolution. However, Hartog's writings mention Aruba's first native Antillean poet, "Mosa Lampe," who reportedly wrote letters in Dutch and enjoyed composing and reading Dutch poetry.

In 1894, the *Arubasche Courant* (Aruban Newspaper) was founded. As the century progressed, reading gradually became more widespread, although access to formal education remained limited.

In 1905, a library was established in Aruba. Initially serving only 12 members, it functioned as a subsec-



tion of the Curaçao Library, which was part of the Netherlands Antilles branch of the Algemeen Nederlands Verbond (Universal Dutch Association). The city of Rotterdam contributed nearly 500 books to the library's founding collection.

The arrival of the oil industry in 1924—with companies like Eagle and Lago Petroleum Corporation—had a significant impact on education and vocational training. The Lago Oil Company launched a top-of-the-line apprenticeship program to teach young men English, mechanical and technical skills, preparing them to work at what was then the world's most modern oil refinery. Aruba's first trade school was officially established in 1952.

In terms of literary culture, the Aruba Boekhandel (Aruba Bookshop) began as a single small business in the 1950s. It eventually expanded into a company operating five separate shops. Unlike bookstores in the Netherlands, Aruba's bookshops also sold toys and other non-literary items, which helped attract customers and boost book sales. Within ten years, book turnover had increased to nearly four times what it had been in 1950.

Magazines—primarily imported from the United States—had a monthly circulation of approximately 30,000 copies. While this might suggest that English-language publications were more popular than Dutch ones that was not the case. The sale and circulation of Dutch books—particularly through the Public Library—consistently exceeded those of English titles.

The Public Library experienced significant growth. Initially, it circulated approximately 15,921 books. By the 1960s, that number had risen to over 60,000—more than one book per resident.

Around this time, the library moved to a larger building in Oranjestad to accommodate the island's growing appetite for reading.

This expansion continued into San Nicolas, where a library branch opened to the public in September 1959. It soon developed into a fully functioning public library, with dedicated sections for both adults and children.

Tired of Aruba's tourist façade? Then it's time to go deeper. Etnia Nativa isn't a souvenir shop or staged attraction—it's the island's cultural heartbeat. An authentic, ever-evolving space, founded in 1994 by a visionary who helped shape Aruba's National Park, Archaeological Museum, and local artisan traditions.

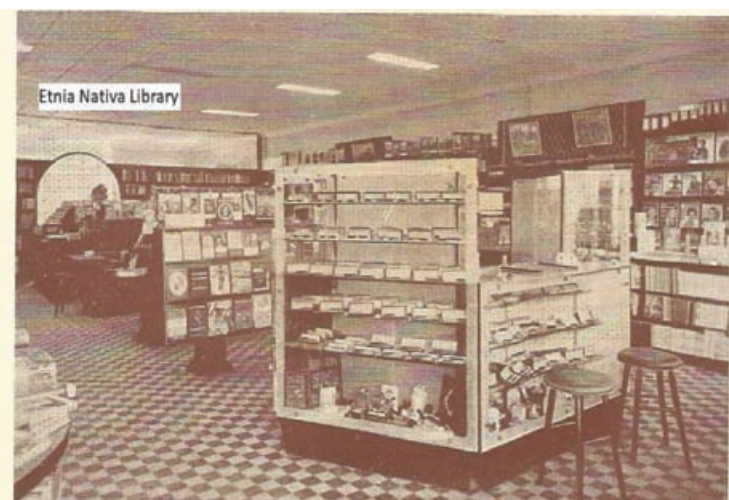
Tucked away in the high-rise area, this private cultural sanctuary isn't on tour maps—and that's intentional. It's for those who seek authenticity over convenience.

Think that's you? Come find out. Experience Etnia Nativa WhatsApp+297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com. □

But Etnia Nativa isn't just a place — it's a gateway. Quietly tucked away near the high-rise hotels, this private residence also serves as a cultural sanctuary, unknown to most tourists. And that's part of its magic. Intentionally exclusive, it welcomes only those with a genuine curiosity and a thirst for authentic discovery.

Connect with the spirit and soul of Aruba's ancient heritage through a one-of-a-kind experience.

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107. In 1952 D. J. de Wit opened the Aruba Boekhandel (Aruba Bookshop) in Nassau Street, one of the finest shops of the town.

Fun facts about the 'Lisinbein'

The 'Lisinbein' (*Scolopendra gigantea*), also known as the **Giant Centipede**, is one of the largest centipedes in the world and is found in Aruba. Its size and hunting prowess make it a fascinating, if often misunderstood, creature.

Despite its fearsome reputation, it plays a crucial ecological role that often goes unnoticed:

As an apex invertebrate predator, *Scolopendra gigantea* helps maintain balance in the ecosystem. Moreover, they themselves are a food source for birds such as the Crested Caracara (Warawara) and the Aruba burrowing owl (Shoco).

It controls populations of smaller invertebrates and even small vertebrates, ensuring that no species overpopulates, which could dis-

rupt local biodiversity.

Its presence can indicate a healthy, functioning ecosystem. Its sensitivity to environmental changes makes it a bioindicator of ecological balance.

It can reach an impressive length of up to 30 centimeters (approx. 12 inches) and live for around 5 to 10 years in the wild. Its size and longevity makes it a significant and long-term part of the ecosystem.

A mother's love

In *Scolopendra* species, the 'mother' typically exhibits maternal care by curling around her eggs and newly hatched young. She stays coiled around the clutch, protecting it from predators and fungi, which are serious risks in the moist environments these centipedes often inhabit. The mother maintains a

clean environment for the eggs by carefully grooming them, which helps prevent fungal growth that could endanger the brood. This behavior may continue until the young centipedes have undergone their first molt, making them more capable of independent survival.

This form of parental care is beneficial in increasing the survival rates of offspring, as the mother's protection provides a safe 'environment' during their vulnerable developmental stages. It's a fascinating adaptation because it shows a form of care that resembles more complex behaviors observed in vertebrates.

No bark, all bite!

The lisinbein is known locally for having a really painful sting. While venomous, the Lisinbein is generally not aggressive toward humans



unless provoked. Its role as a guardian of balance in the ecosystem helps protect the natural beauty of Aruba by keeping the ecosystem in harmony.

Editor's note: Information and pictures provided by Ms. Natasha Silva from the Aruba Conservation Foundation. □

Forgotten gems: Open air movie theaters

(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theaters. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were

once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

The first open air theater was constructed in 1920

and was commissioned by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Colombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban

census office is located. The theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.

American migrants who worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of the Marinier's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than

movies at that time.

The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a drive-in theater. A popular American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends in one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon there was a separate price that you had to pay called the "car crash".

This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic form of entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later. Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi. □

Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Scarlett's last name

1 Paul Bunyan's ox

5 Lawyer's jobs

10 Districts

12 Select group

13 It has a powerful beam

15 Blasting stuff

16 Feel poorly

17 Yoga need

18 Chowing down

20 Cause of ruin

21 New wave instrument, for short

22 Manual reader

23 Tenth president

25 Strong wind

28 Urge forward

31 Vaccine type

32 Meter readers

34 Cotillion girl

35 Letter after epsilon

36 Here, in France

37 Avenue illuminator

DOWN

1 Moistened, as a turkey

2 Sports spots

3 "Reds" star

4 Corn unit

5 Jail division

6 Boxing great

7 Letters after rhos



8 Fuel gas

9 Hunting dog

11 Meager

14 Best part

19 Military info

20 Pats on the back, perhaps

24 Contacts, in a way

25 Baptized boy

26 Singer Franklin

27 Maze runner

29 Asylum seeker

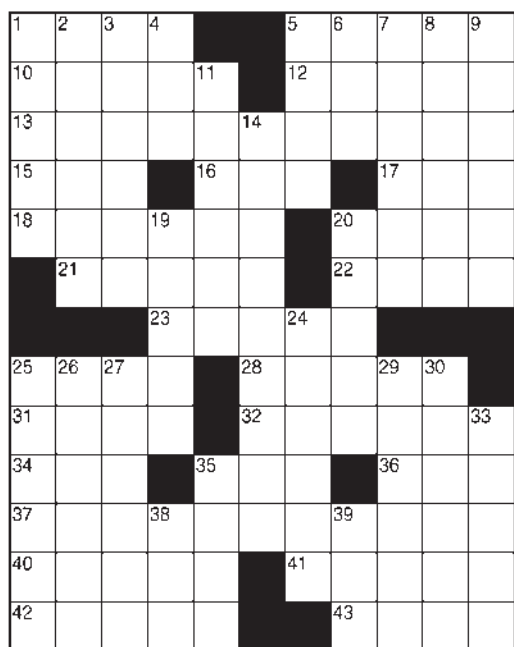
30 Lewd fellow

33 Blasting stuff

35 Ring out

38 Historic time

39 Charged particle



10-10

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-10 CRYPTOQUOTE

EAD JMCNE PLROMEMLR LJ

HRODCNEKROMRF K JLCDFMR

PLHRECQ MN EL NVDXX ME.

— CHOQKCO UMYXMRF

Cryptoquote: I REMEMBER IT AS OCTOBER DAYS ARE ALWAYS REMEMBERED, CLOUDLESS, MAPLE-FLAVORED, THE AIR GOLD AND SO CLEAN IT QUIVERS. — LEIF ENGER

Cruise ship Schedule: Oct. 01 - 12 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
WED	01	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	05	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	07	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA	07.00 13.00	16.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	08	GRAND PRINCESS RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 08.00 06.00	18.00 23.00 ****	B C E	1 1 1
THU	09	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	18.00	C	1
SUN	12	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/4

Answer to previous puzzle

1	8	6	4	9	7	3	2	5
4	7	5	1	3	2	8	6	9
2	9	3	6	8	5	1	7	4
8	4	9	2	1	3	6	5	7
3	5	2	7	6	9	4	1	8
7	6	1	5	4	8	9	3	2
9	3	7	8	5	6	2	4	1
5	1	8	3	2	4	7	9	6
6	2	4	9	7	1	5	8	3

Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/3

Apple removes apps that allow anonymous reporting of ICE agent sightings

Associated Press

Apple has taken down an app that uses crowdsourcing to flag sightings of U.S. immigration agents after coming under pressure from the Trump administration.

ICEBlock, a free iPhone-only app that lets users anonymously report and monitor activity by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers, was no longer available on Apple's App Store as of Friday. The developer had confirmed its removal on Thursday evening.

"We just received a message from Apple's App Review that #ICEBlock has been removed from the App Store due to 'objectionable content'," ICEBlock said in a social media post. "The only thing we can imagine is this is due to pressure from the Trump Admin. We have responded and we'll fight this!"

The developer said last month that it had more than 1 million users. Even though it has been removed from the app marketplace, those who have already downloaded the app should still be able to use it.

The Associated Press reached out to ICEBlock for further comments on Friday.

Apple said it removed apps like ICEBlock due to the potential for risks that were raised by law enforcement.

"We created the App Store to be a safe and trusted place to discover apps," the company said in a statement. "Based on information we've received from law enforcement about the safety risks associated with ICEBlock, we have removed it and similar apps from the App Store."

U.S. Attorney General Pamela Bondi confirmed that her office had reached out to Apple on Thursday "demanding that they remove ICEBlock from their App Store." In a statement sent to The Associated Press,



Pedestrians chant, "ICE go home!" as federal immigration agents walk along North Clark Street in the River North neighborhood, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, in Chicago.

Associated Press

she claimed that ICEBlock was "designed to put ICE agents at risk just for doing their jobs."

Officials said last month that a gunman who opened fire on an ICE facility in Dallas had searched for apps that tracked the presence of ICE agents.

Bondi has previously said that crowdsourced apps that allow people to communicate about the location of law enforcement officers is not allowed specifically referring to ICEBlock developer Joshua Aaron in a July interview on Fox

News.

"We are looking at him and he better watch out because that's not a protected speech," Bondi said at the time.

But advocates say that tracking ICE activity is a form of free speech protected by the First amendment. They maintain that such platforms are primarily used among individuals looking to protect themselves from surprise raids or potential harassment from immigration officials.

Downloads of apps like ICEblock have surged

as the Trump administration steps up immigration enforcement. □



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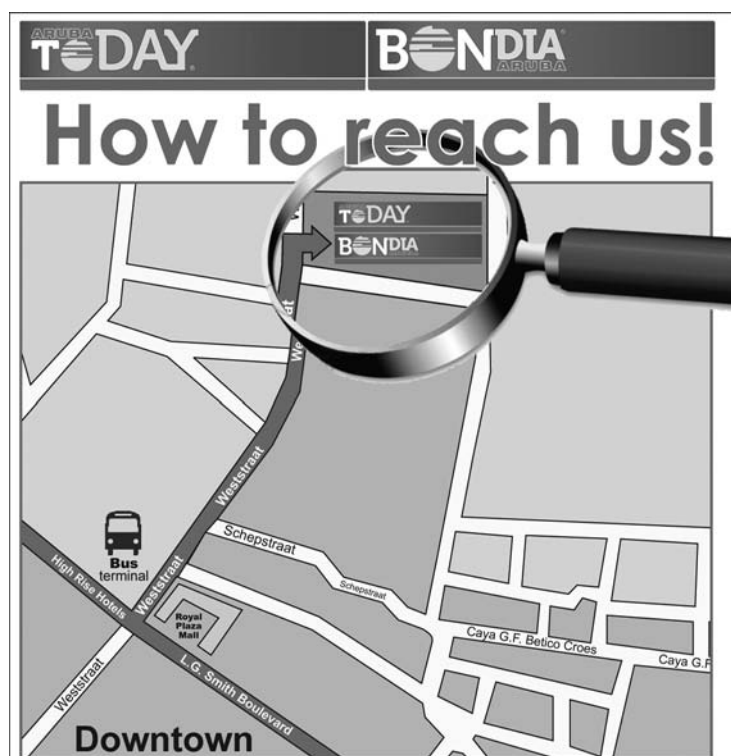
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HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle: Tel. 587 9011

San Nicolas:

Centro Medico: Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional	Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Actor Gary Oldman ranks his 'Slow Horses' character Jackson Lamb among the top roles of his career

By NICKI FINLAY
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Gary Oldman is back on screens as the caustic Jackson Lamb for the fifth season of misfit spy thriller "Slow Horses," as the critically acclaimed adaptation reaches Mick Herron's book "London Rules." This week, the morning after he was invested with a knighthood by the Prince of Wales for services to drama on stage and screen, the Oscar-winning actor said Lamb is one of his all-time favorite roles.

"Where would he be in the canon, as it were? I think up there with you know, 'Darkest Hour,' 'Tinker Tailor,'" he said.

The star won his Oscar for his portrayal of Winston Churchill in the 2017 film "Darkest Hour." He was Oscar-nominated for 2011's "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy," and again for 2020's "Mank."

Oldman has played Lamb the shabby, brash, seemingly uninterested leader of the group of MI-5 agents in spy purgatory at Slough House since "Slow Horses" debuted in 2022.

In Season 5, suspicions are raised when the team's tech nerd Roddy Ho is dating a glamorous woman. But as London is hit with a series of bizarre events, the Slow Horses spot an old agency technique to destabilize regimes.

"We're getting a taste of our own poison," explains Oldman.



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Gary Oldman in a scene from "Slow Horses."

Associated Press

With a sixth season shot, and production due to start on Season 7 in November, the 67-year-old star says Lamb has become the character he has "inhabited" consistently the longest.

From the start, he has made a physical commitment to Jackson's worse for wear look including putting on extra body fat, and living with "Lamb hair."

He considers it a "small price to pay" to avoid adding to the "thousands of hours" he has racked up in the makeup artist's chair over the course of his career.

"So it's of my own choosing, really, that I've got to walk around with a terrible haircut and scruff on my chin and go to Windsor Castle, meet the future king, you

know, and go 'Sorry, I apologize about all of this, but, you know, I start work in a month'," he said, with a laugh.

Season 5 of "Slow Horses" is streaming now on Apple TV+.

This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

AP: Are you used yet to being addressed as Sir Gary?

OLDMAN: Now, it's a little strange. I met some fans... I was told, oh, there's some people outside, and I went out and signed some autographs and things, "Oh, yes, would you sign, like, Sir Gary?" You know, it's a little odd, yeah. I mean you don't have to, you know?

AP: What do you love about playing Jackson Lamb?

OLDMAN: I love the fact

that people think he's sort of loafing off and yet, really, when his eyes are closed and he's got his feet up on the desk that the mind is sort of working. That's what I like about him. And it's fun to come in and sling around those insults to people. He doesn't have social norms in that way, does he? He doesn't follow the rules.

I mean, I've played, I did James Gordon, that was over, God, that was over seven years. So I've played a character and I've returned to a character, but I haven't had the opportunity to really inhabit someone like Lamb, consistently. I've got a real soft spot for him. I'm really, I'm quite taken with him.

AP: And it's a physical com-

mitment as well, isn't it? You were talking about having to carry the extra weight.

OLDMAN: Well, you do get to a certain age where it's a little harder to take off. It's easy to put on, it's harder to take it off. And I've got scruff and there's not much I can really do with the hair, apart from sort of put it up, otherwise it's I do have, I have Lamb hair. And I just kind of, for the last five years, have just lived with it. Going into the show, I have spent thousands of hours in the makeup chair over the course of my career. It must be thousands now. And it was an opportunity to not spend hours in a makeup chair. I said, I want my own hair, you know, I don't want wigs, I don't want makeup.

AP: Season 5 is based on the 2018 book. Mick Herron does seem to have a knack for writing themes that stay relevant. Was there a particular theme in the new season that interested you more than the others?

OLDMAN: I mean, obviously, the more comedic side to it is the fact that Ho has a girlfriend. Thinks he has a girlfriend. But this time around, the whole destabilization, this group of terrorists, we're getting a taste of our own poison. The underhand, slight nefarious things that these institutions get up to, and they do abuse, we know that they abuse their power, the sort of destabilization strategy that we had implemented was now being done to us. □

Music Review: Doja Cat returns to pop with an '80s twist in 'Vie'



Doja Cat attends The Albies on Sept. 26, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

By KIANA DOYLE
Associated Press

Doja Cat had been dropping hints that her newest album would be filled with '80s flavor from the big hair and exaggerated structure of her VMAs outfit to the retro dance moves in the music video for her single "Jealous Type." Out Friday, "Vie" speaks for itself.

The rapper-singer known for hits like "Say So" and "Kiss Me More" leans back into the pop genre on her fifth studio album, incorporating some of the most iconic music styles from the past to create something innovative and fun. And don't worry, she still includes her signature rap verses in every song. "Cards" and "Jealous Type" start the

album off distinctly '80s-esque with synths and punchy snares. Lyrically, Doja Cat toys with the idea of letting herself love someone, singing in the former, "Maybe I'll fall in love baby / Maybe we'll win some hearts / Gotta just play your cards."

The two are album highlights, as well as "AAHH MEN!," a spirited track with intense instrumentals and varied vocals from whispers to shouts as Doja Cat expresses the sometimes-disappointing emotions that come with dating.

Moreso than the frustration, she expresses the fun of falling in love throughout her album. She dives headfirst in "Silly! Fun!," gushing, "You're my person / This my first time I'm in love." □

Texas Rangers managerial search focused on former NL manager Skip Schumaker

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Baseball Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) —

The Texas Rangers' search for Bruce Bochy's replacement is centered on Skip Schumaker, a former NL Manager of the Year who has worked in their organization for the past year.

"We have a lead candidate internally that we're focused on," Chris Young, the team's president of baseball operations, said Friday.

Young acknowledged that he had begun what he would consider a formal interview process, and that there were not yet any external candidates.

"At this point, we haven't focused there yet," he said. "Our hope is that we don't have to."

Schumaker, a special advisor for the Rangers, was the 2023 NL Manager of the Year when Miami went 84-78 and made the fourth postseason appearance in club history. That was the same year Texas, with Bochy in his debut there, won its first World Series championship. The Rangers and the 70-year-old Bochy, a four-time World Series champion who was baseball's win-



Miami Marlins manager Skip Schumaker walks off the field during the third inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants in San Francisco, Friday, Aug. 30, 2024.

Associated Press

ningest active manager, mutually agreed Monday to end his managerial stint. That was the day after Texas finished 81-81 for its second non-winning record since its championship. Bochy was at the end of his three-year contract.

The Marlins slipped to 62-100 in 2024 after changes in the front office and a roster decimated by trades and injuries. Schumaker and the

team mutually agreed that he wouldn't return for this season.

Texas hired Schumaker last November, a move viewed by many as making him the heir apparent for Bochy. Schumaker remains under contract with the organization through the end of October.

There are seven other MLB teams also looking for new managers. Young wouldn't

say if any other teams had requested permission to speak with the 45-year-old Schumaker about their openings.

When asked if there was worry about Schumaker in relation to those other openings, Young said: "I'm not overly concerned at this point."

Before going to Miami, Schumaker was a bench coach for St. Louis, where

he played for the Cardinals during their 2011 World Series win over Texas. He played 11 big league seasons with St. Louis (2005-12), the Los Angeles Dodgers (2013) and Cincinnati (2014-15).

Rangers general manager Ross Fenstermaker said while Schumaker lives on the West Coast, he has been very involved with the team in his advisory role.

"He'd spend time with us and many different folks in the front office, add his perspective, his wisdom. He was around and available a lot," Fenstermaker said. "We probably talked to him every few days, if not daily, throughout the course of the year and bounce ideas off him and get his perspective."

Bochy has been offered an advisory role in the Rangers front office. He also could be in line for such a position with the San Francisco Giants, though he isn't a candidate for the managerial opening of the team he led to three World Series titles from 2010-14.

With 2,252 wins, Bochy is sixth among all managers, with the five ahead of him all in the Hall of Fame. □

Ravens rule out Lamar Jackson for Sunday's matchup against the Texans

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) — Lamar Jackson has been ruled out for Baltimore's game against Houston on Sunday after missing a week of practice because of a hamstring injury.

Jackson had to leave last weekend's loss at Kansas City in the second half. Cooper Rush is now in line to start for the Ravens, who have lost nine of their last 11 games when Jackson doesn't play. The two-time MVP has missed only one game since the start of the 2023 season — a Week 17 matchup when Baltimore had little to play for.

Baltimore also ruled out All-Pro linebacker Roquan Smith (hamstring), All-Pro cornerback Marlon Humphrey (calf) and All-Pro fullback Patrick Ricard (calf) for this weekend, as well as cornerback Chidobe Awuzie (hamstring).

Star safety Kyle Hamilton (groin) missed practice Thursday and Friday and is questionable for the game.

Linebacker Odafe Oweh (eye), tackle Ronnie Stanley (ankle) and receiver Tez Walker (oblique) are also questionable. Linebacker Kyle Van Noy (hamstring) was a full participant in practice Thursday and Friday after missing the last two games. Rush started eight games for Dallas last season in place of Dak Prescott, and now the Ravens (1-3) turn to him at a time when their season is in danger of going off the rails.

They have this game and a matchup with the Los Angeles Rams both at home before a much-needed open date.

"I've kind of been here before," Rush said Friday.

"Whenever a franchise QB goes down, it's always a 'sky is falling' feeling everywhere you are. It's normal, and if you have to go out there on Sunday and do what you have to do, it's nice knowing you had a whole week to prep for it, so things like that are good." □



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson heads off the field following an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press



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The NHL is entering an era with a relaxed player dress code and players love it

TORONTO (AP) — William Nylander has been known to ride the subway to work. The Toronto Maple Leafs winger usually fades into the crowd on his way to Scotiabank Arena, the stylish Swede's slick and fashionable business attire blending in with thousands of office workers on similar daily trips beneath the bustling city. Nylander will now have the option to defy convention on his commute.

The new collective bargaining agreement takes effect before next season but the NHL and NHL Players' Association agreed to let some things including a relaxed player dress code go forward 12 months early.

"Guys can wear whatever they want," Nylander told the Canadian Press. "What they feel comfortable wearing into games."

Generations of fans have watched NHL teams arrive at the rink in suits and ties. Other major sports like the NBA and NFL have long allowed athletes to don what-



San Jose Sharks center Macklin Celebrini gets ready during a face off in an NHL hockey game against the Edmonton Oilers in San Jose, Calif., April 16, 2025.

Associated Press

ever styles or brands they like for pre-game attire. Hockey held out as long as it could. Times, however, have changed. All options are now on the table. Carolina Hurricanes forward

Seth Jarvis said it will come down to the creativity of individuals. "People who are in touch with fashion and style, they'll do a really cool job," he said. "I don't know where

I'm going to take it, but if they start letting sweats and sweaters into the rink, then I'm gonna be all over that." New Jersey Devils center Jack Hughes expects there will still be lots of classic

threads, if only for one reason.

"Guys have probably spent so much money on suits," he said. "Some guys have been playing 15 years. They probably have like 50 suits or something crazy. (But) that'll be great, just going to the rink and wearing whatever you want."

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said the league didn't have a significant issue with relaxing the dress code for arena arrivals, but added that concerns were raised.

"Some clubs feel like they should have the ability to decide how players appear to the workplace dressed," he told CP. "But even with respect to those clubs ... they understand."

San Jose Sharks center Macklin Celebrini said there are also traditionalists within the player pool.

"A bunch of guys don't love it," he said. "The NHL has always been the one (sport) that holds tight on the suit with the tie. □"

Cal Raleigh edges Aaron Judge for Baseball Digest player of the year



Seattle Mariners' Cal Raleigh waves to the crowd after hitting his 60th home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025, in Seattle.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Cal Raleigh won the Baseball Digest/Inside Edge major league player of the year award Friday, narrowly beating out Aaron Judge.

The switch-hitting catcher from the Seattle Mariners, who became the seventh player to hit 60 home runs in a season, received 12 of 24 first-place votes and finished with 56 points in balloting by a panel of baseball writers and broadcasters that included several former players, managers and executives.

Judge was chosen first on eight ballots, and the New York Yankees outfielder garnered 53 points. Los Angeles Dodgers two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani got the other four first-place votes and came in a distant third.

Pittsburgh Pirates ace Paul Skenes was selected pitcher of the year by a wide mar-

gin over Detroit Tigers left-hander Tarik Skubal, and Boston Red Sox closer Aroldis Chapman was a runaway winner for reliever of the year.

In addition to leading the majors in homers, Raleigh topped the American League with 125 RBIs while batting .247 with a .948 OPS for the AL West champion Mariners. He shattered MLB records for home runs by a catcher and switch-hitter, and broke the Seattle single-season mark previously held by Hall of Fame outfielder Ken Griffey Jr.

Raleigh joined Alex Rodriguez (1996) as the only Mariners players to win the Baseball Digest award.

Judge, who edged Ohtani by two points for last year's prize, led the majors in batting average (.331) and OPS (1.144) while finishing second in runs scored (137). □